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Censorship no answer to C.I.A. security problems

COVERT ACTION, a London-based magazine with an American publisher, proclaims as its objective the destruction of United States intelligence agencies.

Evidence points to a conclusion that one result of Covert Action's activities could well be the destruction of American agents, rather than agencies.

Within hours after the publication last week identified Richard Kinsman, first secretary of the U.S. embassy in Jamaica, as chief of station for the Central Intelligence Agency, unidentified gunmen shot up Kinsman's home in Kingston. Luckily, no one was injured.

The incident was vividly remindful of the 1975 murder of Richard Welch, C.I.A. station chief in Athens, who was shot to death by three masked gunmen after his C.I.A. connection was publicized in an American anti-C.I.A. pamphlet and later in an Athens newspaper.

Deplorable is the mildest word that comes to mind in describing the activities of Americans who deliberately set out to "blow the cover" of their nation's intelligence agents.

Still, one must be leery of efforts in Congress to impose some sort of censorship over anti-intelligence-agency hate literature.

It is up to the intelligence agencies themselves to protect the "covers" of their operatives. That's part of the game they play. It's a dangerous game. And no one could have supposed it to be otherwise.